

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 7 have been cancelled. Claims 8 - 11 have been added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments noted is respectfully requested.

Canceled claims 1 - 7 have been rewritten as claims 8 - 11 to more clearly define the claimed invention. Support for the method steps of claim 8 can be found in the specification from page 3, line 4 through page 4, line 21 of the specification. Claim 9 is similar to canceled claim 1 and is supported by page 2, lines 6 - 19. Claim 10 is similar to canceled claim 2 and is supported by page 4, lines 18 - 20 of the specification. Claim 11 is similar to canceled claim 3 and is supported by page 4, lines 22 - 28 of the specification.

The specification has been amended to correct a translation error. "Boiling point" now reads --Melting point--. The specification has also been amended to include the recitation that the granulometry is 100 - 400 # Tyler mesh size, which corresponds to the range of particle sizes originally disclosed in the specification.

In the Office Action, claims 1 - 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, certain limitations in the claims were found to be vague and indefinite, to include improper formatting, and to recite a use without any positive steps.

New claims 8 - 11 have been written with a view towards eliminating any vague and/or indefinite terminology, using proper formatting, and positively claiming the method steps. Hence, applicant submits that new claims 8 - 11 are definite and meet the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the Section 112, second paragraph rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process.

As noted above, claims 4, 6, and 7 have been canceled. Also, new claims 8 – 11 have been written to positively claim the steps of the method and to avoid the recitation of a use without setting forth steps in the process. Therefore, applicant submits that new claims 8 – 11 meet the requirements of Section 101. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Section 101 rejection be withdrawn.

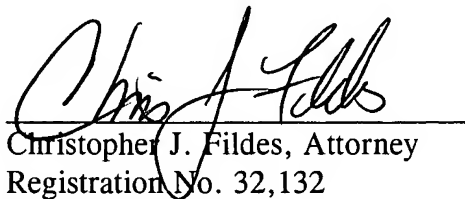
A Petition For A Three-Month Extension Of Time and a PTO-2038 authorizing payment in the amount of \$1,050.00 to cover the fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a)(3) are included with this response.

This amendment and request for reconsideration is felt to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Luiz Roberto Martins Miranda et al.

Fildes & Outland, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris J. Fildes", is written over a horizontal line.

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